


## BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

### For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):  <b>Farmers Independent Telephone Company</b> <b>dba Grantsburg Telcom</b> <b>139 West Madison Avenue</b> <b>Grantsburg, WI 54840</b>	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a> . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.  Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b>		
	Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a>		
	Date: December 1, 2021		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>			
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>			
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)  <b>Terry Kucera</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">           Title   <b>General Manager</b> </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">           Phone (    )  <b>715-463-5322</b> </td> </tr> </table>	Title  <b>General Manager</b>	Phone (    ) <b>715-463-5322</b>
Title  <b>General Manager</b>	Phone (    ) <b>715-463-5322</b>		
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date <b>3/17/22</b>		

## SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>Farmers Independent Telephone Company</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$6,244 (45%)</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>39-0273273</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$7,631 (55%)</b>
Contact Name and Title <b>Terry Kucera General Manager</b>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$13,875</b>
Telephone Number <b>715-463-5322</b>	Project Name <b>Grantsburg Industrial Park</b>
E-mail Address(es) <a href="mailto:terry@grantsburgtelcom.com">terry@grantsburgtelcom.com</a>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>FTTH</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) <b>Last Mile</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <b>Burnett County Development Association County Government Center 7410 County Road K #120 Siren, WI 54872 715-349-2979 Nate Ehalt Burnett County Administrator</b>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>Farmers Independent Telephone will construct FTTH to 15 locations within the industrial park in the Village of Grantsburg, WI. This FTTH infrastructure will connect to Farmers' existing network, with complete redundancy and reliability.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>1000 Mbps</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>1000 Mbps</b>
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>100 Mbps</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>25 Mbps</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Burnett</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Grantsburg Industrial Park</b>

List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve <b>None</b>	
Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) <b>Not at this time</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). <b>15</b>	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). <b>0</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>15</b>	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>0</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) <b>YES</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) <b>YES</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) <b>YES</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) <b>No</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) <b>YES</b>	

# FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

## Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

### Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Farmers Independent Telephone Co. d/b/a Grantsburg Telcom	Grantsburg Industrial Park

### Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
2	Equipment	\$ 1,744.00	\$ 2,131.00	\$ 3,875.00
3	Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 6,244.00	\$ 7,631.00	\$ 13,875.00
				55.0% match requested

### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Burnett County	Partner	Cash	\$ 5,000.00
2	Farmers Independent Telephone Co.	Applicant	Cash	\$ 2,631.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 7,631.00

Borg Rd

N Nelson St

N Park St

North Industrial Park,  
Grantsburg, WI  
Currently Greenfield awaiting  
development

Google Earth

### 3.2 Mandatory application requirements

An applicant must include the following information in its application to be eligible for this grant and the application must demonstrate satisfaction of indicated requirements.

#### 3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

- a. The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.

Farmers Independent Telephone Company  
dba Grantsburg Telcom  
139 West Madison Avenue  
Grantsburg, WI 54840  
[terry@grantsburgtelcom.com](mailto:terry@grantsburgtelcom.com)

- b. If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.

Burnett County Development  
County Government Center  
7410 County Road K #120  
Siren, WI 54872

- c. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).

Farmers Independent Telephone Company (FITC) is an established telecommunications company in the State of Wisconsin. FITC contacted the Burnett County to establish a partnership to build high-speed broadband in the new industrial park area within the Village of Grantsburg, WI. The county has agreed to supply \$5,000 in funding for this partnership.

### 3.2.2 Description of the project

Farmers Independent Telephone Company (FITC) is submitting this application for a FTTH project to supply the new industrial park area of within the Village of Grantsburg. This project is will build infrastructure to a greenfield area which is zoned for commercial use and supported by the United States Department of Commerce (see Attachment A for news release). The U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo announced that the Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding \$1.4 million in grants to the village of Grantsburg, WI to construct road, water, and sewer infrastructure to the North Industrial Park (see Page 4 of the application for the map) to promote manufacturing growth. This industrial expansion is expected to create over 380 jobs, retain over 40 jobs, and generate \$83 million in private investment. FITC is requesting grant funds to provide the broadband infrastructure which will be necessitated by this federal investment in our community and needed by the manufacturers moving into the space of North Industrial Park.

The project will be an extension of FITC's existing fiber network, with dedicated backbone, distribution, feeder and drop fiber to the premises to these locations. The FTTH infrastructure will deliver high-speed broadband with gig capable speeds, along with voice services that meet all quality standards. The plant will be 100% buried fiber utilizing state-of-the-art pedestals and street rights-of-way. This project will mirror the FTTH deployment that FITC has used in its previous mainline fiber construction over the past 11 years.

- a. A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project.

A kmz map file was sent to [pscbroadband@wisconsin.gov](mailto:pscbroadband@wisconsin.gov) before the application deadline. PDF version attached on Page 4 of the application.

- b. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

All locations within the proposed area are unserved per the PSC Broadband Map. North Industrial Park is currently greenfield, but will soon be a bustling center of business activity, if all the proper infrastructure is built and ready for move in.

- c. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.

Fiber facilities will immediately offer the capability of higher speeds for internet access to any and all businesses that secure space in the new park

development. The delivery of FTTH infrastructure to these unserved locations will provide the businesses a high quality and reliable communications infrastructure to create their on-line footprint, economic stability and overall business structure. The locations passed will be able to access speeds up to 1 Gbps upload and 1 Gbps download for all of their business needs.

Include information about the:

- Potential and expected number of households served, including number of unserved and underserved locations.

Overall, the project will pass 15 industrial business locations, all of which are currently unserved.

- Potential and expected number of businesses served, including number of unserved and underserved locations.

The initial expected number of businesses is 15 locations, but the possibilities are endless when it comes to fiber technologies and economic expansion.

- Expected number of seasonal residents and tourists served.

There are no expected residential locations in this zoned area.

- Estimated download and upload speed of the broadband service packages available for purchase.

The initial service options available to business customers will be expanded over time to meet demand & market pricing. Current Offerings include:

25 Mbps - \$69.95  
50 Mbps - \$89.95  
75 Mbps - \$109.95  
100 Mbps - \$159.95  
150 Mbps - \$199.95  
175 Mbps - \$249.95  
250 Mbps - \$299.95  
1 Gbps – Request Pricing

- d. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.

This project will target Last Mile infrastructure for the area and locations contained in the application. The proposed project is an extension of FITC’s existing redundant GPON-designed fiber network that already serves villages, towns, and unincorporated areas in Burnett and Polk counties. No middle mile costs are included in this application.

- e. A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.

FITC submits this grant application for Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) broadband expansion to the North Industrial Park in the Village of Grantsburg. The proposed project will initially benefit 15 business locations in an unserved area in Burnett County, WI.

The technology used for this project is FTTH, provisioned via a buried fiber network and using Calix GPON fiber for loop plant to deliver the scalable technology forward high-speed broadband product. Calix Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and routers capable of providing 1 Gbps of symmetrical service will be placed at the customer premise. All electronic systems serving more than one customer are deployed in an active/standby configuration and FITC maintains spare inventory for key components. FITC will support the proposed service area with the same technology, with the intent of providing the same experience to the proposed service areas as are currently being delivered to the rest of our customers.

This will extend that infrastructure to reach more locations and more businesses in the future.

- f. For middle mile projects:

Not Applicable

- g. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.

2022 – Order Equipment

late 2022 - 2023 – Begin Construction – in conjunction with city infrastructure

2023 – begin installation of electronics at business locations

2022-2023 – begin turn up of fiber-based customer services

### 3.2.3 Itemized Budget

- a. In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures.

All equipment purchased and used for construction will be owned by Farmers Independent Telephone Company. The Project Budget on page 3 of this application gives detail on the equipment this is to be purchased and the expenditures for this project.

Farmers Independent Telephone Company				
Grantsburg Industrial Park				
	Quantity		Price	Total
<b>Contractual</b>				
Fiber Construction	3,500	ft	\$2.20	\$7,700.00
Boring	200	ft	\$11.50	\$2,300.00
<b>Equipment</b>				
Cable	3,500	ft	\$0.65	\$2,275.00
Pedestals	8		\$200.00	\$1,600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$13,875.00</b>

- b. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers.

The total dollar amount of the project is listed and accounted for in the equipment list. No grant money will be used to subsidize the on-going expenses of FITC, nor will it be used to subsidize the end user monthly billing amounts.

- c. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application.

FITC agrees to demonstrate that all grant funds requested in the application will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the unserved area described in this application. The money will be used for aid to construction costs. FITC will self-fund its contribution to the Project's construction and equipment costs. All expenses incurred will be within the Award's Performance Period.

### 3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

- a. **Matching funds.** A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds. *Note: The requirement for this information is satisfied via inclusion of the completed Funding Statement as page 4 of the application.*

FITC will self-fund its portion of the application to engineer and install the mainline fiber, electronics, fiber drops, installation, and splicing in the proposed area. Burnett County Development Association has committed to a partnership in which they will commit \$5,000 to the project pending grant approval.

See Page 4 of this application for the Budget Summary

- If available, provide documentation to support an offer of matching funds (minutes of a town board meeting, a letter from a prospective customer or local government official, etc.).

Verbal agreement to supply funding for any grants awarded in Burnett County from the Burnett County Development Association

- **Public-private partnerships.** If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement.

Verbal Agreement with Burnett County Development Association

FITC is committed to our communities and is eager to join into this partnership with the county development association. Joining forces will assist in the deployment of the fiber network infrastructure and will be a great tool for marketing the service once it is built. Private – Public partnerships solidify our commitment to the customers in this area, they solidify the counties commitment to citizens, and it supports the local economy and the overall development of our rural communities.

- b. **Existing broadband service.** A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve.

No current providers – Greenfield Project

This project will not be duplicating any existing high-speed broadband infrastructure. There is no fiber or other communications infrastructure currently in the proposed area. All locations listed in this grant application are unserved via the Wisconsin Broadband Map.

- Provide a list of mobile wireless service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed project.

AT&T Mobility – Form 477 no speeds available

T-Mobile – Form 477 no speeds available

Verizon Wireless – Form 477 no speeds available

- c. **Project impact.** A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.

In the project area, there is the possibility of at least 15 brick-and-mortar businesses and maybe more as the area expands and grows. This is a enormous economic opportunity for our small community. The faster we can build the internet infrastructure to facilitate the US Department of Commerce's financial commitment to the area, the sooner our local economy will flourish and provide benefits to Wisconsin as a whole.

FITC will construct FTTH infrastructure, provisioned via a buried fiber network. The entire network will be redundant and therefore reliable. FITC will offer speed packages ranging from an affordable 25/3 Mbps tier up to a 1 Gbps symmetrical tier which is sufficient for businesses of this size. The infrastructure is also scalable as the business environment demands more speed and bandwidth. By including a diversity of tiers, we safeguard the affordability of service for every business in the proposed area.

- d. **Scalability.** A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:

The demand for bandwidth seems without limit. Service providers who invest in reliable and proven fiber network infrastructure can have confidence that the installed infrastructure is scalable to the bandwidth needs of today and the future. Providers and businesses can rely on a high quality of service over the lifetime of the investment.

The ultimate in scalable bandwidth delivery to the consumer is a Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) network. A FTTH network connects the network exchange and the home using a fiber optic link. The bandwidth of a FTTH network is not limited by the fiber connection, but by the transmission equipment on the link. Operators can upgrade their respective FTTH networks simply by replacing the equipment at the terminals of the fiber lines. Fiber has a long usable life. With that in mind, the FTTH architecture saves time and money, as the plant does not need to be replaced for many decades. Business speeds can be upgraded simply by replacing transmission equipment. After decades of use, any fiber that needs replacing is also easily and affordably swapped by blowing new fiber through any conduit that was placed with the original fiber.

FITC will be constructing a FTTH network to the locations listed in this application if grant money is awarded. GPON is a point to multipoint technology that connects an Optical Line Terminal (OLT) to many Optical Network Terminals (ONTs). GPON networks utilize passive splitters between the OLT and the ONT, and it allows for flexibility in designing the network for ultimate scalability and function. The fiber GPON infrastructure allows for higher bandwidth and consistent reliability over counterpart technologies like wireless or satellite. GPON assures Quality of Service (QoS) by guaranteeing necessary bandwidth for each service and each user. QoS features are used to ensure proper service prioritization and delivery. All information that travels the optical network is encrypted, which gives the consumer an additional level of security.

The entire FTTH network is redundant, giving the company and business consumer confidence that they will stay connected at all times. FITC can quickly expand the existing equipment to meet an increase in business development by adding additional shelves and cards. The network design and fiber counts used in the proposal can easily be scaled to accommodate additional locations if the need arises. FITC can add additional locations to the network if demand suggests the need.

FITC will offer high-speed internet to these locations as well as voice service to any location that is interested in those services.

The next generation offers symmetrical 10 Gig service over the same fiber. FITC can easily evolve utilizing the same infrastructure to reach these much higher speeds. This is an ultimate example in scalability and investment stability.

- **Economic development.** A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region.

The proposed project is likely to have a substantial local and regional economic impact since broadband speeds will increase to levels that can readily accommodate businesses seeking to access services and projects available today via the Internet.

FTTH service also increases the value of homes in the area, improving the real estate market as the demand for these jobs comes to fruition. Homes will increase in monetary value, in addition, having fast and reliable broadband service available will attract many potential buyers who may otherwise choose to live in a different area due to their reliance on broadband connectivity.

FITC believes that sustainable broadband adoption will transform this unserved area into a highly productive rural community. The demand is present today for advanced technology and high-speed broadband. FTTH will empower the area by providing the opportunity to be proficient users of broadband technology. This use and development of broadband will stimulate economic growth, and encourage innovation and investment. If funding is awarded, FITC will look at expanding broadband buildouts into additional adjoining unserved areas to extend the benefits of a fiber-based network serviced by a local provider that gives back to the communities it serves.

- e. **Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.** A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

This project will not impair broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. FITC has fiber facilities that already exist adjacent to the proposed area. The proposed build-out would extend the current FITC

service area and provide broadband speeds that far exceed the services that will be needed by these businesses.

3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

- a. A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the State and elsewhere.

FITC is based in Grantsburg, Wisconsin (population 1,384) and has been an integral part of the community, providing advanced telecommunications services to households and businesses in its serving territory since 1907. As a local company and local community supporter, FITC is invested in the area, not only by deploying advanced broadband services, but monetarily to support the communities we serve.

FITC has donated more than a half million dollars to local not for profit organizations over the past 35 years, including the local hospital, the local library, the local school district, and the local fire department. The Board of Directors sees the expansion of its broadband network as an opportunity to provide additional donations to help spur local economic development in the project area and bridge the digital divide in our communities.

FITC is an incumbent local exchange carrier, providing voice, Internet, and TV service throughout our service territory. Currently, FITC serves approximately 1,700 voice customers, and 2,800 Internet customers.

FITC is submitting this application for a project serving the North Industrial Park area of Grantsburg, WI. The project will build fiber as an extension of FITC's existing fiber network, with dedicated backbone, distribution, feeder, and drop fiber to premises in this area. Using these new facilities FITC will enhance services to this business area. As a result of this project, FITC will be able to provide Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) broadband to 15 new businesses in the current greenfield area. The project will also provide a pathway to serve more businesses in this area in the future.

The expansion of the FTTH broadband service to this unserved area will provide subscribers a high quality and reliable communications infrastructure to expand their economic and leading edge business opportunities. The locations passed will be able to access speeds up to 1 Gbps download / 1 Gbps upload.

FITC has been building fiber infrastructure for many years inside and outside of our study area boundary. Inside our study area, we have built

fiber as it has been affordable, with only a few areas left to build. We have done this through our own funding or with ACAM support in some areas. FITC has a proven track record for successful deployment of Gigabit broadband service provisioned over fiber facilities. Our success is directly linked to the financial, technical, and professional expertise from employees at all levels. It is the experienced staff that has aided in the successful deployment of the existing broadband network and the recently completed CARES broadband deployment project in Spirit Lake, WI. FITC has also been awarded 2022 ARPA Grants for Clam River – Phase I, the Town of Sterling, WI, and the Town of Anderson, WI.

- b. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

There are no fixed wireless entities providing broadband service in the project area. There are no current wireline companies providing service, therefore no duplication of existing broadband service will occur. The locations in this application do not currently have FTTH infrastructure.

- c. A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.

FITC is a well-established company doing business in the State of Wisconsin. FITC is in good standing and has been in business for over 115 years as a privately owned and operated business. FITC is financially stable and will be financing our portion of the proposed project through cash on hand and in-house labor.

- d. For middle mile projects, state the terms under which the applicant will make its middle mile fiber resource available to last mile providers.

Not Applicable

- e. For middle mile routes, state the amount of fiber capacity, by number of fiber strands in a cable, that the applicant has been reserved for public use.

Not Applicable

- f. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.

All customers in this area that request broadband service from FITC will have more than adequate broadband speed available to access health care facilities from their home. The bandwidth available is more than sufficient

for on-line video meetings, on-line monitoring, security systems, and for employees who may work from home and connect into the business office.

- g. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.

Not applicable to schools or education at this time. But that could change as business opportunities become available in this area.

- h. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:

Burnett County is not certified as a Broadband Forward! or Telecommuter Forward! community. FITC will encourage them to investigate the program and assist in any way to get certified.

- i. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

SEE ATTACHMENT A – EDA Press Release

- j. Any other equitable factor that the applicant desires to discuss, including one or more of the factors in Wis. Stat. § 196.03(6) that the applicant believes its project would advance. In discussing this element, the following information may be useful:

- Technical support and training materials that the applicant intends to provide.

FITC employs skilled technicians and customer service specialists who provide support either by phone or onsite depending on the nature of the issue. Each interested customer will receive a one-on-one experience to ensure all of their business needs are met, the phone service has provisioned enough lines to meet the requirements of the company, the bandwidth will be enough to do all of their on-line business, security, monitoring, and provide bandwidth for their telecommuting employees. A new customer packet will be given to each potential business which explains our service offerings, prices, equipment, and programs available to assist in their broadband experience, education, and technical assistance. Our goal is to resolve any trouble call with the first call or visit.

- Information that the applicant intends to use to promote better broadband adoption and use.

We will market our services to this area upon completion of the grant project, including our customer welcome packet, a description of services, and a link to our website which lists all services. Sales person visits to

discuss service options will be made available as well as time to discuss needs with one of our educated and experienced technical staff. Our customer service staff, technicians, and managers will be available to answer questions, assist with set up, and digital literacy if needed.

- A description of a program or outreach to provide assistance to individuals of low income.

This is not applicable for the business sector, but FITC does have affordable tiered pricing available for all business needs.

As an FYI, however, complete information on the Universal Service Fund Lifeline Assistance program offered is available on its website, on our website, in our marketing materials, and each office staff member is well versed in answering questions and assisting with applications for qualification approval. FITC is also a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which allows for a \$30 monthly broadband credit to qualified households. This program will be offered in this area as well. We will include links to the website, application site, and information page on our company's website. Our staff is also available to answer any questions, educate customers, and assist with the application process.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION  
**COMMERCE NEWS**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE — WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, July 8, 2021**

**Contact: Ike Umnunah**  
**[IUmnunah@eda.gov](mailto:IUmnunah@eda.gov)**

**U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$1.4 Million to Support Manufacturing Growth in Grantsburg, Wisconsin**

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1.4 million grant to the village of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, to construct road, water and sewer infrastructure to support expansion of the North Industrial Park and promote manufacturing sector growth. This EDA project, to be matched with \$1.2 million in local funds, is expected to create 383 jobs, retain 43 jobs, and generate \$83 million in private investment.

"President Biden is committed to helping communities grow their critical industry sectors to improve regional economies across the nation," said **Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo**. "This EDA investment will provide the infrastructure needed to boost Grantsburg's manufacturing sector to create jobs for local citizens and build economic resiliency in the region."

"The Economic Development Administration is pleased to support Grantsburg as they seek to diversify the region's economy," said **Susan Brehm, Director of EDA's Chicago Regional Office**. "This EDA-funded expansion will provide Grantsburg with an additional 26 acres for its industrial park to accommodate business expansion and job growth."

"These targeted investments are critical to invest in our infrastructure, create family-supporting jobs, and help Wisconsin continue our economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic," said **Governor Tony Evers**. "Wisconsin is bouncing back, and this is great news for Grantsburg's local economy and the regional economy. We appreciate President Biden's continued support for our communities and our state."

"These federal investments for the Village of Grantsburg will support efforts to rebuild our infrastructure and move our Made in Wisconsin manufacturing economy forward," said **Senator Tammy Baldwin**. "This federal funding shows that President Biden and Commerce Secretary Raimondo are committed to helping rural Wisconsin recover and build back better with job creation and economic development."

**About the U.S. Economic Development Administration ([www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov))**

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA invests in communities and supports regional collaboration in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.